

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 06026 191750Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 ARA-10 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5761

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6026

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT, PE

SUBJECT: FMC INVESTIGATION OF SHIPPING AGREEMENTS

REF: STATE 165796

1. EMBASSY ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON AMBASSADOR JUAN DE LA PIEDRA, UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, TO DISCUSS FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION'S INVESTIGATION OF PRUDENTIAL AND LYKES SHIPPING AGREEMENTS WITH COMPANIA PERUANA DE VAPORES (CPV). MEEGIN WAS AT NOON JULY 18.

2. DURING COURSE OF MEETING E/C COUNSELOR DREW ON POINTS REFTEL TO DESCRIBE FMC ORDER OF INVESTIGATION AND HEARING, AND TO URGE GOP NOT TO CANCEL ITS RECOGNITION OF AGREEMENTS (OR TO REVERSE ITS CANCELLATION IF AGREEMENTS HAD ALREADY BEEN REVOKED). E/C COUNSELOR LEFT NON-PAPER BASED ON PARA 5 REFTEL TO SUPPORT DEMARCHE.

3. AMBASSADOR DE LA PIEDRA GRASPED POINT THAT GOP SHOULD NOT REVOKE AGREEMENTS. HE SUGGESTED
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LIMA 06026 191750Z

THAT UNILATERAL REVOCATION ON PERU'S PART COULD IN A SENSE BE CONTRUED AS A VICTORY FOR THOSE IN THE REGULATORY AGENCY WHO DESIRED TO END SUCH COMMERCIAL CARGO SHARING AGREEMENTS. ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF PROBLEM PREVIOUSLY (HE EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT PERUVIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD NOT REPORTED THESE DEVELOPMENTS),

AMBASSADOR DE LA PIEDRA PROMISED TO TAKE A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS MATTER AND TO BE IN TOUCH WITH E/C COUNSELOR IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. COMMENTS: (A) SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO PRESS OR OTHER PUBLIC REFERENCE TO THIS ISSUE. WE BELIEVE THE FMC'S ACTION COULD HAVE A SERIOUS EFFECT ON US-PERUVIAN RELATIONS. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, PERUVIANS ARE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO ANY MOVES BY THE UNITED STATES SMACKING OF WHAT THEY HAVE SO OFTEN IN THE PAST DESCRIBED AS "ECONOMIC AGGRESSION". CERTAINLY THE IMPOSITION OF EQUALIZING FEES ON U.S. EXPORT CARGOES CARRIED BY PERUVIAN CARRIERS WOULD BE TAKEN HERE AS A HOSTILE ACTION. (B) IT WOULD APPEAR THAT AMBASSADOR DE LA PIEDRA, THE SENIOR ECONOMIC POLICY OFFICIAL IN FONOFF, IS SYMPATHETIC TO USG POSITION AS OUTLINED REFTTEL. WE SHOULD KNOW SHORTLY WHETHER WE CAN AVERT REVOCATION OF SHIPPING AGREEMENTS, AND WILL REPORT RESULTS OF OUR EFFORTS PROMPTLY. SHLAUDEMAM

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